

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/713,973

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, HIDEAKI

Examiner

Art Unit

Chriss S. Yoder, III

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 08/19/2004.

2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18, 23-25 and 30-32.

3.  The drawings filed on 19 August 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.

4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

(b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-18, 23-25, and 30-32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. As for claim 1, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of an imaging device that causes the driving means to supply the charge discharging signal to the imaging device at a first time, causes the driving means to supply a high transfer rate driving signal at a first time, causes the driving means to stop supplying the high transfer rate driving signal at a second time, switching the shutter open after the second time, causing the driving means to stop supplying the discharge signal a time equal to or before the third time, switches the shutter closed at a fourth time, and causes the driving means to supply a normal driving signal at a fifth time, when the shutter is closed, outputting the image signal.
2. As for claim 5, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of an the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of an imaging device that causes the driving means to supply the charge discharging signal to the imaging device at a first time, causes the driving means to supply a high transfer rate driving signal at a first time, causes the driving means to stop supplying the high transfer rate driving signal at a second time, switching the shutter open after the second time, causing the driving means to stop supplying the discharge signal a time equal to or before the third time, switches the shutter closed at a fourth time, and causes the driving means to supply a normal driving signal at a fifth time, when the shutter is closed, outputting the image signal.

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3. As for claim 10, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of an imaging device that causes the driving means to supply the charge discharging signal to the imaging device at a first time, causes the driving means to supply a high transfer rate driving signal at a first time, causes the driving means to stop supplying the high transfer rate driving signal at a second time, switching the shutter open after the second time, causing the driving means to stop supplying the discharge signal a time equal to or before the third time, switches the shutter closed at a fourth time, and causes the driving means to supply a normal driving signal at a fifth time, when the shutter is closed, outputting the image signal.

4. As for claim 14, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of an the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of an imaging device that causes the driving means to supply the charge discharging signal to the imaging device at a first time, causes the driving means to supply a high transfer rate driving signal at a first time, causes the driving means to stop supplying the high transfer rate driving signal at a second time, switching the shutter open after the second time, causing the driving means to stop supplying the discharge signal a time equal to or before the third time, switches the shutter closed at a fourth time, and causes the driving means to supply a normal driving signal at a fifth time, when the shutter is closed, outputting the image signal.

5. As for claim 23, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of a comparison of the exposure time to a predetermined reference exposure time that is set to  $TC = dt/2$  to  $2dt$  in order to select a photographic mode.

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6. As for claim 30, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of a comparison of the exposure time to a predetermined reference exposure time that is set to  $TC = dt/2$  to  $2dt$  in order to select a photographic mode.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chriss S. Yoder, III whose telephone number is (703) 305-0344. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CSY  
December 28, 2004

*Wendy R. Garber*  
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